

IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A mechanical pencil comprising a tubular body extending along a longitudinal axis between a rear end and a front end provided with an orifice, through which a lead is capable of emerging, and a lead-advancing mechanism arranged in the tubular body, said advancing mechanism comprises:

a longitudinally movable member having a forwardly oriented bearing surface;

a chuck having a tubular portion connected to said movable member, and a head capable of being clamped on the lead;

a clamping ring which is movable longitudinally with respect to said chuck and to the tubular body and which is designed to cooperate with the head of said chuck; and

an elastic element having a front end and a rear end bearing against the bearing surface of said movable member, said elastic element being designed to bias said clamping ring against the head of said chuck when said advancing mechanism is in a rest position,

wherein a bush, movable longitudinally with respect to said chuck and the body, is arranged between said clamping ring and the front end of said elastic element, in that said chuck is movable longitudinally with respect to said movable member over a defined stroke, and

wherein the body has a front stop designed to limit the forward displacement of the bush.

17. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein the front stop is formed by a radially inner rim which cooperates with a peripheral portion of the front end of the bush.

18. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein said elastic element is a helical compression spring.

19. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein the tubular portion of said chuck has, from its rear end, first and second radially outer rims, and wherein the front end of said movable member has an orifice, through which said chuck slides between the first and second rims, the said first and second rims being spaced apart longitudinally in order to limit this sliding of said chuck to a value equal to the defined stroke.

20. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 19, wherein the tubular portion of said chuck has a frustoconical portion extending from the first rim as far as the rear end of said chuck.

21. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein the body has a rear stop designed to cooperate with a complementary stop of said movable member and to limit the rearward displacement of said movable member, the longitudinal distance between the front stop of the body and the rear stop being designed so that said clamping ring keeps said chuck clamped under the action of the bush when said advancing mechanism is in the rest position.

22. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 21, wherein the rear stop is formed by a radially inner rim of the body, the rim cooperating with a radially outer shoulder of said movable member.

23. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein the body has an aperture extending longitudinally as far as a rear end, and wherein said movable member has a pin projecting into the aperture, the rear end of the aperture forming the rear stop.

24. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein at least one elastically deformable compensation member is arranged between the front stop of the body and the bush or between the rear stop of the body and the complementary stop of said movable member.

25. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 24, wherein the compensation member comprises at least one tab elastically deformable in a longitudinal direction and produced in one piece with the body.

26. (New) The mechanical pencil according to any of Claim 16, wherein the body has a rearward movement stop designed to limit the rearward displacement of said clamping ring from the rest position of said advancing mechanism to a value at most equal to the defined stroke of said chuck.

27. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 26, wherein the rearward movement stop is formed by at least one stud integral with the body and extending radially inwards between the bush and said movable member, the stud being designed to limit the rearward displacement of the bush.

28. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 26, wherein the rearward movement stop is formed by a radially inner rim of the body, the rim being designed to cooperate with a radially outer shoulder of said clamping ring.

29. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein said chuck is capable of driving the lead forwards over a defined stroke from the rest position of said advancing mechanism.

30. (New) The mechanical pencil according to Claim 16, wherein said elastic element is designed to exert on the bush a pressure of about 2 - 5 newtons when said advancing mechanism is in the rest position, and a pressure of about 5 - 10 newtons when said chuck has executed a rearward displacement substantially equal to the defined stroke.

31. (New) A mechanical pencil comprising a tubular body extending along a longitudinal axis between a rear end and a front end provided with an orifice, through which a lead is capable of emerging, and a lead-advancing mechanism arranged in the tubular body, said advancing mechanism comprises:

a longitudinally movable member having a forwardly oriented bearing surface;

a chuck having a tubular portion connected to said movable member, and a head capable of being clamped on the lead;

a clamping ring which is movable longitudinally with respect to said chuck and to the tubular body and which is designed to cooperate with the head of said chuck; and

an elastic element having a front end and a rear end bearing against the bearing surface of said movable member, said elastic element being designed to bias said clamping ring against the head of said chuck when said advancing mechanism is in a rest position,

wherein a bush, movable longitudinally with respect to said chuck and the body, is arranged between said clamping ring and the front end of said elastic element, in that said chuck is movable longitudinally with respect to said movable member over a defined stroke,

wherein the body has a front stop designed to limit the forward displacement of the bush, and

wherein the front stop is formed by a radially inner rim which cooperates with a peripheral portion of the front end of the bush.

32. (New) A mechanical pencil comprising a tubular body extending along a longitudinal axis between a rear end and a front end provided with an orifice, through which a lead is capable of emerging, and a lead-advancing mechanism arranged in the tubular body, said advancing mechanism comprises:

a longitudinally movable member having a forwardly oriented bearing surface;

a chuck having a tubular portion connected to said movable member, and a head capable of being clamped on the lead;

a clamping ring which is movable longitudinally with respect to said chuck and to the tubular body and which is designed to cooperate with the head of said chuck; and

an elastic element having a front end and a rear end bearing against the bearing surface of said movable member, said elastic element being designed to bias said clamping ring against the head of said chuck when said advancing mechanism is in a rest position,

wherein a bush, movable longitudinally with respect to said chuck and the body, is arranged between said clamping ring and the front end of said elastic element, in that said chuck is movable longitudinally with respect to said movable member over a defined stroke,

wherein the body has a front stop designed to limit the forward displacement of the bush, and

said elastic element is a helical compression spring.